

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 LAB-01

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STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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TNAD:WDNEWKIRK

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BIC:OIM:MMANLEY (SUBS)

STR:HLAWRENCE (SUBS)

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STATE:JWHITE (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ET

SUBJ: DISCRIMINATORY PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS OF PASSENGER VEHICLES
WITH ENGINE DISPLACEMENT OF 1300 CC

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2937

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER TO APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIALS NOTE
VERBALE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

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2. BEGIN NOTE. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN

OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND TOURISM ON OCTOBER 25, 1974 PROHIBITING IMPORTS OF PASSENGER VEHICLES WITH ENGINE DISPLACEMENT OVER 1300CC. ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF GATT AND CONSEQUENTLY IS NOT BOUND BY ITS LEGAL RESTRAINTS, IT HAS INDICATED A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF DISCRIMINATORY TRADE POLICIES AT THIS TIME IS INCONSISTENT WITH BOTH THE PURPOSES AND SPIRIT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION, THIS VIOLATES PROVISIONS OF THE 1953 TREATY OF AMITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ETHIOPIA. ARTICLE XIII OF THIS TREATY STATES THAT NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE ACCORDED TREATMENT NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN THAT ACCORDED NATIONALS AND COMPANIES OF ANY THIRD COUNTRY WITH RESPECT TO ALL MATTERS RELATING TO IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION.

3. EXEMPTIONS FROM THIS RECENT IMPORT REGULATION IS CLEARLY DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST U.S. VEHICLES. THESE MODELS WERE OSTENSIBLY EXEMPTED DUE TO "THEIR SUITABILITY TO THE TERRAIN OF THE COUNTRY AS REGARDS STRENGTH AND DURABILITY." WE BELIEVE THE CRITERIA FOR "STRENGTH AND DURABILITY" CAN ALSO BE MET BY AUTOMOBILES OF U.S. MANUFACTURE.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA REVISE ITS RULES ON THE PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS OF CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES SO AS NOT TO SPECIFY MODELS FOR EXEMPTIONBUT, RATHER, TO PERMIT VEHICLES OF ALL NATIONALITIES TO COMPETE IN THE FULFILLMENT OF ETHIOPIAN NEEDS.

5. FYI: RECENT DISCRIMINATORY ACTION TAKEN BY GOE DOES NOT INVOLVE A MAJOR TRADE ITEM FOR UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, SINCE ETHIOPIA IS ABOUT TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. OBJECTS TO DISCRIMINATORY TRADE PRACTICES. EMBASSY SHOULD TRY TO FURTHER DETERMINE THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE 1300CC ENGINE DISPLACEMENT LIMITATION AND REASONS FOR SPECIFIED EXEMPTIONS. INGERSOLL

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